IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re application of: Burton et al.	§	Docket No.: 26530.3 (IDR-341)
	§	Customer No. 27683
Serial Number: 09/394,590	§	Group Art Unit: 2155
Filed: September 13, 1999	§	Examiner: Nguyen, Thu Ha
For: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EXPOSING NETWORK ADMINISTRATION STORED IN A DIRECTORY USING HTTP/WEBDAV PROTOCOL	§	

BRIEF OF APPELLANT

Mail Stop: APPEAL BRIEFS-PATENT
Commissioner For Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Brief is submitted in connection with an appeal from the final rejection of the Examiner dated September 22, 2004 finally rejecting claims 1-42, all of the pending claims in this application.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Novell, Inc., a Delaware company having a principal place of business at 122 East 1700 South, Provo, Utah, 84606, United States of America.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals and no related interferences regarding the above-identified patent application.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-42 are pending, stand finally rejected, and are on appeal here. Claims 1-42 are set forth in the CLAIMS APPENDIX attached hereto.

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Void date: 01/24/2005

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS AFTER FINAL REJECTION

No response or amendments have been filed in response to the final Office Action of September 22, 2004.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1 and 12

The present invention, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 12, relates to a method and computer program for manipulating network objects by extending an Internet authoring, collaboration, and versioning protocol to a network directory service having network administration functions, wherein the protocol allows a user to perform remote web content authoring and user rights administration operations. The method and computer program comprises receiving a request using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol for a manipulation of a first network object from a requesting user, wherein the first network object includes at least one from the group consisting of: devices, resources and container objects (page 4, lines 25-26; page 6, lines 20-26, ; Fig. 1, ref. 10, 16, 26, and 28; Fig. 2, ref. 30-43 and other contents of "Folders"; Fig. 3, contents of "Folders"); verifying a first set of authorization information (page 4, lines 26-2; page 9, lines 10-11; Fig. 4, ref. 50); translating a logical object address to a physical file system path (page 4, lines 27-28; page 9, lines 11-13; Fig. 4, ref. 52); checking a file system for validity and authorization for the requesting user including determining whether the first network object is a network object within the network directory service (page 4, line 28-page 5, line 1; page 9, lines 13-22; Fig. 4, ref. 54 and 56); verifying a username and a password for the requesting user (page 5, line 2; page 9, lines 18-24; Fig. 4, ref. 58, 60, 62); returning a first error message if requesting user is unauthorized to access the first network object (page 5, lines 2-3; page 9, lines 22-30; Fig. 4, ref. 64); determining an object type for the first network object (page 5, lines 3-4; page 10, lines 1-4; Fig. 4, ref. 72); sending a response to the requesting user (page 5, line 4; page 10, lines 5-8; Fig. 4, ref. 74); accessing the network administration functions of the network directory service using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol (page 6, lines 13-23; Fig. 2, ref. 30); and administering user rights to the first network object using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client

software, related to the network directory service, installed on a user workstation (page 4, lines 17-21; page 6, lines 19-23; page 7, lines 6-12; page 7, line 28 – page 9, line 3).

Claims 7 and 17

The present invention, as set forth in dependent claims 7 and 17, relates to the method and computer program of claims 5 and 15, respectively, wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of an interactive computer screen (page 6, lines 19-23; page 7, lines 18-23; page 8, lines 4-19; page 14, lines 3-11).

Claims 8 and 18

The present invention, as set forth in dependent claims 8 and 18, relates to the method and computer program of claims 7 and 17, respectively, wherein the new rights are all rights for all users and assigned by dragging a public icon and dropping the public icon on the first network object (page 8, lines 4-14).

Claims 9 and 19

The present invention, as set forth in dependent claims 9 and 19, relates to the method and computer program of claims 7 and 17, respectively, wherein the new rights are subtracting all rights for all users except an assigned user to the first network object and wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging a private icon and dropping the private icon on the first network object (page 8, lines 10-14).

Claim 23

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 23, relates to a system for manipulating network objects by extending an Internet authoring, collaboration and protocol to a network directory service having network administration functions, wherein the protocol allows a user to perform remote web content authoring and user rights administration operations. The system comprises a web server (Fig. 1, ref. 10; page 6, lines 4-12); a work station connected to the web server by an Internet connection (Fig. 1, ref. 16; page 6, lines 8-12); at least one

network server connected to the web server (Fig. 1, ref. 28; page 6, lines 13-14); at least one storage system connected to the web server (Fig. 1, ref. 26; page 6, lines 13-14); means for receiving a request using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol for a manipulation of a first network object from the work station, wherein the first network object includes at least one from the group consisting of: devices, resources and container objects (page 4, lines 25-26; page 6, lines 20-26, ; Fig. 1, ref. 10, 16, 26, and 28; Fig. 2, ref. 30-43 and other contents of "Folders"; Fig. 3, contents of "Folders"); means for verifying a first set of authorization information (page 4, lines 26-2; page 9, lines 10-11; Fig. 4, ref. 50); means for translating a logical Uniform Resource Locator to the storage system (page 4, lines 27-28; page 9, lines 11-13; Fig. 4, ref. 52); means for checking for validity and authorization for a requesting user including determining whether the first network object is a network object within the network directory service (page 4, line 28-page 5, line 1; page 9, lines 13-22; Fig. 4, ref. 54 and 56); means for verifying a username and a password for the requesting user (page 5, line 2; page 9, lines 18-24; Fig. 4, ref. 58, 60, 62); means for determining an object type for the first network object (page 5, lines 3-4; page 10, lines 1-4; Fig. 4, ref. 72); means for sending a response to the requesting user (page 5, line 4; page 10, lines 5-8; Fig. 4, ref. 74); means for accessing the network administration functions of the network directory service using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol (page 6, lines 13-23; Fig. 2, ref. 30); and means for administering user rights to the first network object using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the network directory service, installed on a user workstation (page 4, lines 17-21; page 6, lines 19-23; page 7, lines 6-12; page 7, line 28 – page 9, line 3).

Claim 28

The present invention, as set forth in dependent claim 28, relates to the system of claim 26 wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of interactive computer screen (page 6, lines 19-23; page 7, lines 18-23; page 8, lines 4-19; page 14, lines 3-11).

Claim 29

The present invention, as set forth in dependent claim 29, relates to the system of claim 27 wherein the new rights are all rights for all users and assigned by dragging a public icon and dropping the public icon on the first network object (page 8, lines 4-14).

Claim 30

The present invention, as set forth in dependent claim 30, relates to the system of claim 27 wherein the new rights are subtracting all rights for all users except an assigned user to the first network object and wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging a private icon and dropping the private icon on the first network object (page 8, lines 10-14).

Claim 34

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 34, relates to a method for manipulating network objects by extending an Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol to a network directory service having network administration functions, wherein the protocol allows a user to perform remote web content authoring and user rights administration operations. The method comprises receiving a request using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol for a manipulation of a first network object from a requesting user, wherein the first network object includes at least one from the group consisting of: devices, resources and container objects (page 4, lines 25-26; page 6, lines 20-26, ; Fig. 1, ref. 10, 16, 26, and 28; Fig. 2, ref. 30-43 and other contents of "Folders"; Fig. 3, contents of "Folders"); verifying a first set of authorization information (page 4, lines 26-2; page 9, lines 10-11; Fig. 4, ref. 50); translating a logical object address to a physical file system path (page 4, lines 27-28; page 9, lines 11-13; Fig. 4, ref. 52); checking a file system for validity and authorization for the requesting user including determining whether the first network object is a network object within the network directory service (page 4, line 28-page 5, line 1; page 9, lines 13-22; Fig. 4, ref. 54 and 56); verifying a username and a password for the requesting user (page 5, line 2; page 9, lines 18-24; Fig. 4, ref. 58, 60, 62); returning a first error message if requesting user is unauthorized to access the first network object (page 5, lines 2-3; page 9, lines 22-30; Fig. 4, ref. 64); determining an object type for the first network object (page 5, lines 3-4; page 10, lines 1-4;

Fig. 4, ref. 72); sending a response to the requesting user (page 5, line 4; page 10, lines 5-8; Fig. 4, ref. 74); accessing the network administration functions of the network directory service using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol (page 6, lines 13-23; Fig. 2, ref. 30); and navigating a context menu for a plurality of screens that allow modification of the set of attributes of the first network object(page 8, line 27 – page 9, line 3); modifying a set of attributes of the first network object by modifying a set of fields on a screen of a subset of the set of attributes (page 7, line 28- page 8, line 9; page 9, line 27- page 9, line 3; page 10, line 22 – page 11, line 18); and administering user rights to the first network object using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the network directory service, installed on a user workstation (page 4, lines 17-21; page 6, lines 19-23; page 7, lines 6-12; page 7, line 28 – page 9, line 3).

Claim 37

The present invention, as set forth in dependent claim 37, relates to the method of claim 35 wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of interactive computer screen (page 6, lines 19-23; page 7, lines 18-23; page 8, lines 4-19; page 14, lines 3-11).

Claim 38

The present invention, as set forth in dependent claim 38, relates to the method of claim 37 wherein the new rights are all rights for all users and assigned by dragging a public icon and dropping the public icon on the first network object (page 8, lines 4-14).

Claim 39

The present invention, as set forth in dependent claim 39, relates to the method of claim 37 wherein the new rights are subtracting all rights for all users except an assigned user to the first network object and wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging a private icon and dropping the private icon on the first network object (page 8, lines 10-14).

Claim 40

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 40, relates to a computer network for a plurality of users to access a workplace by using an Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the protocol allows a user to perform remote web content authoring and user rights administration operations. The system comprises a plurality of network computer servers within the computer network (Fig. 1, ref. 10; page 6, lines 4-12; Fig. 1, ref. 28; page 6, lines 13-14); a plurality of network computer workstations within the computer network and connected to at least one of the plurality of network computer servers (Fig. 1, ref. 16; page 6, lines 8-12); a file system, network directory, and printing subsystem on the computer network and accessible by the plurality of users by the protocol (Fig. 1, ref. 26; page 6, lines 13-14); a security system that provides an authentication process in order to allow access to the plurality of users to the file system, network directory, and printing subsystem (page 9, lines 10-28); and a graphical user interface using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol for viewing the file system, network directory and printing subsystem as the workplace, and providing the plurality of users the ability to manipulate the file system, network directory and printing subsystem and the ability to run a plurality of network applications within the file system and network directory portions of the subsystem (Fig. 2, ref. 30; page 6, lines 19- page 7, line 12; page 7, line 24- page 8, line 19), wherein user rights to the file system, network directory, and printing subsystem are administered using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the administration of the user rights, on a user workstation (page 4, lines 17-21; page 6, lines 19-23; page 7, lines 6-12; page 7, line 28 – page 9, line 3).

GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Claims 1-4, 10-14, 20-25, 31-34, and 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,289,378 to Meyer et al. ("Meyer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,608 to Dillingham ("Dillingham") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,748 to Deen et al. ("Deen").

2. Claims 5-6, 15-16, 26-27, and 35-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Meyer, Dillingham, Deen and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,195,097 to Schrader et al. ("Schrader").

3. Claims 7-9, 17-19, 28-30, and 37-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Meyer, Dillingham, Deen, Schrader and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,298 to Smith II et al. ("Smith II").

ARGUMENT

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Meyer, Dillingham, and Deen

Claims 1, 12, 23, and 34

Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection of these independent claims on the following three grounds: a) the cited references do not teach the claimed subject matter, b) the cited prior art teaches away from the claimed subject matter, and c) the cited references are not properly combinable if their intended function is destroyed.

Regarding the first ground, claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 recite in part, "administering user rights to the first network object using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the network directory service, installed on a user workstation" and "accessing the network administration functions of the network directory service using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol." The combination of Meyer, Dillingham, and Deen fail to teach these elements.

The PTO recognizes in M.P.E.P. §2143, "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." As the Examiner has allowed, "Meyer and Dillingham do not explicitly teach . . . using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol and administering user right [sic] to the first network object using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the network directory service, installed on a user workstation." (Final Office Action mailed September 22, 2004, page 7). In fact, Meyer and Dillingham teach away from the claimed subject matter. Specifically, Meyer

requires the use of an "agent" by each client computer, wherein the client computer is accessed when a "web browser makes a request to the agent" (col. 3, line 35-50). Then, "the agent preferably executes a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) program which pulls selected data from the operating system of the computer" (col. 3, line 54-57). Thus, the primary reference, Meyer, specifically requires an agent to perform operations, whereas claims 1 and 12 preclude the execution of such software.

Likewise, Dillingham teaches, "a user interface (UI) presented at a client" wherein "[t]he UI might be stored locally at the client, or downloaded on demand from the server" (col. 2, lines 29-37). "Using the client UI, the remote administrator can view the directory data, navigate the data, set properties for the listed files or folders, add or rearrange directories, delete or move files, or perform other general administration tasks" (abstract). Claims 1, 12, 23, and 34, in contrast, preclude client software related to the network directory service installed on a user workstation. The Deen reference is unable to reverse the express teachings of the Meyer and Dillingham references and also fails to remedy the deficiencies of these references.

Further, as the Examiner has allowed, "Meyer and Dillingham do not explicitly teach accessing the network administration function of the network directory server [sic] using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol." (Final Office action mailed September 22, 2004, page 7) The cited text of Deen describes WebDAV but fails to specifically teach or suggest accessing the network administration functions of a network directory service.

Because the Meyer, Dillingham, and Deen references fail to teach or suggest every element of the claim, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to properly render obvious claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 using the combination of these references.

Regarding the second ground, Meyer and Dillingham teach away from the claimed invention and thus cannot be used to establish obviousness. These references, by providing an agent and a UI stored locally at the client, are directed to systems in which dedicated client executable software is required. Thus, this system clearly teaches away from independent claims 1, 12, 23, and 34. Since it is well recognized that teaching away from the claimed invention is a *per se* demonstration of lack of prima facie obviousness, it is clear that the burden of factually supporting any prima facie conclusion of obviousness has not been met.

Regarding the third ground, Meyer and Dillingham are not properly combinable with

Deen since, if combined, the intended function becomes destroyed. More particularly, if the Deen patent were to include the client-side software, as required by the rejection, it would be rendered inoperable for its intended purpose because the efficiency of managing "[b]ig web sites [which] often collect information from people across an organization, and sometimes across different organizations" would be destroyed.

Similarly, each embodiment of the Meyer patent relies upon an agent to allow remote access. The entire functionality of the Meyer patent is destroyed if this client software is omitted. Thus, since a combination would clearly destroy the purpose or function of the invention disclosed in the Meyer and Deen patents, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have found a reason to make the claimed combination.

Claim 40

Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection of this independent claim on three grounds a) the cited references do not teach the claimed subject matter, b) the cited prior art teaches away from the claimed subject matter, and c) the cited references are not properly combinable if their intended function is destroyed.

Regarding the first ground, claim 40 recites in part, "a file system, network directory, and printing subsystem on the computer network and accessible by the plurality of users by the protocol" and "wherein user rights to the file system, network directory, and printing subsystem are administered using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the administration of the user rights, on a user workstation." The combination of Meyer, Dillingham, and Deen fail to teach these elements.

The Examiner cites only the agent (Figure 2, item 215) of Meyer to fulfill the element of "a file system, network directory, and printing subsystem on the computer network and accessible by the plurality of users by the protocol." (Final Office action mailed September 22, 2004, page 14) However, the agent in Meyer is clearly not accessible by the plurality of users by the [Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning] protocol, since as the Examiner has recognized, "Meyer and Dillingham do not explicitly teach using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol" (Final Office action mailed September 22, 2004, page

15). Further, the combination of references does not teach or suggest that user rights to the file system, network directory, and printing subsystem [i.e., the agent of Meyer as defined by the Examiner] are administered using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the administration of the user rights, on a user workstation. The cited text of the Deen reference describes WebDAV but fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Meyer and Dillingham patents. Therefore because the Meyer, Dillingham, and Deen references fail to teach or suggest every element of the claim, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to properly render obvious claim 40 using the combination of these references.

Regarding the second ground, Meyer and Dillingham teach away from the claimed invention and thus cannot be used to establish obviousness. These references, by providing an agent and a UI stored locally at the client, are directed to systems in which dedicated client executable software is required. Thus, this network clearly teaches away from independent claim 40. Since it is well recognized that teaching away from the claimed invention is a *per se* demonstration of lack of prima facie obviousness, it is clear that the burden of factually supporting any prima facie conclusion of obviousness has not been met.

Regarding the third ground, Meyer and Dillingham are not properly combinable with Deen since, if combined, the intended function becomes destroyed. More particularly, if the Deen patent were to be used with the client-side software, as required by the rejection, it would be rendered inoperable for its intended purpose because the efficiency of managing "[b]ig web sites [which] often collect information from people across an organization, and sometimes across different organizations" would be destroyed.

Similarly, each embodiment of the Meyer patent relies upon an agent to allow remote access. The entire functionality of the Meyer patent is destroyed if this client software is omitted. Thus, since a combination would clearly destroy the purpose or function of the invention disclosed in the Meyer and Deen patents, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have found a reason to make the claimed combination.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Meyer, Dillingham, Deen, and Shrader

Claims 7, 17, 28, and 37

Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection of these dependent claims on the grounds that the cited references do not teach the claimed subject matter and the cited prior art teaches away from the claimed subject matter.

Claims 7, 17, 28, and 37 recite in part, "the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of an interactive computer screen." The Examiner has stated that "Meyer, Dillingham, and Shrader together does [sic] not disclose wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of an interactive computer screen." (Final Office action mailed September 22, 2004, page 19) Nevertheless, the Examiner has rejected these claims by stating that "[o]fficial notice is taken that the drag and drop feature to assign the properties of one object to another is well known." However, under MPEP § 2144.03, official notice may only be taken of "facts outside of the record which are capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being 'well-known' in the art." (Emphasis added). As stated in *In re Eynde*, 480 F.2d 1364, 1370, 178 USPQ 470, 474 (CCPA 1973), "we reject the notion that judicial or administrative notice may be taken of the state of the art. The facts constituting the state of the art are normally subject to the possibility of rational disagreement among reasonable men and are not amenable to the taking of such notice." Applicant submits that the Examiner, after admitting that the cited references fail to disclose that "the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of an interactive computer screen," cannot rely upon official notice to render the cited claim language obvious as the cited language does not constitute a fact outside of the record which is capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration.

Shrader also discloses a "DCE Manager 25a" resident on the client machine 10 (Fig. 1), and therefore Shrader, like Meyer and Dillingham, also teaches away from the claimed invention as described above.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Meyer, Dillingham, Deen, Shrader, and Smith II

Claims 8, 18, 29, and 38

Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection of these dependent claims on the ground that the cited references do not teach the claimed subject matter.

Claims 8, 18, 29, and 38 recite in part, "the new rights are all rights for all users and assigned by dragging a public icon and dropping the public icon on the first network object." The Examiner has stated, "Meyer, Dillingham, and Shrader do not disclose wherein the new rights are all rights for all users and assigned by dragging a public icon and dropping the public icon on the first network object" and combines Smith II to provide that missing element. Smith II, however, describes only "a drag and drop method for manipulating various physical components" (col. 20, lines 9-10). The cited text does not disclose assigning *new rights* by dragging and dropping a *public icon* on the first network object.

Accordingly, because the Meyer, Dillingham, Deen, Shrader, and Smith II references fail to teach or suggest every element of the claims, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to properly render obvious claims 8, 18, 29, and 38 using the combination of these references.

Claims 9, 19, 30, and 39

Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection of these dependent claims on the grounds that the cited references do not teach the claimed subject matter and the cited prior art teaches away from the claimed subject matter.

Claims 9, 19, 30, and 39 recite in part, "the new rights are subtracting all rights for all users except an assigned user to the first network object and wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging a private icon and dropping the private icon on the first network object." The Examiner has stated, "Meyer, Dillingham, and Shrader does [sic] not disclose wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging a private icon and dropping the private icon on the first network object" and combines Smith II to provide that missing element. Smith II, however, describes only "a drag and drop method for manipulating various physical components" (col. 20, lines 9-10). The cited text does not disclose assigning *new rights* by dragging and dropping a *private icon* on the first network object.

Accordingly, because the Meyer, Dillingham, Deen, Shrader, and Smith II references fail to teach or suggest every element of the claims, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to properly render obvious claims 9, 19, 30, and 39 using the combination of these references.

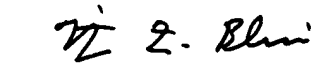
Other Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 2-6, 10, 11, 13-16, 20-22, 24-27, 31-33, 35, 36, 41, 42 depend from and further limit their respective independent claims and should therefore also be allowable.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are fully supported by the specification and that the Meyer, Dillingham, Deen, Schrader, and Smith II references fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 1-42. For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-42 be allowed. A prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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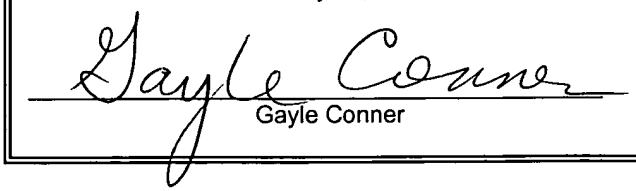

Gayle Conner

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A method for manipulating network objects by extending an Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol to a network directory service having network administration functions, wherein the protocol allows a user to perform remote web content authoring and user rights administration operations, the method comprising:

receiving a request using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol for a manipulation of a first network object from a requesting user, wherein the first network object includes at least one from the group consisting of: devices, resources and container objects;

verifying a first set of authorization information;

translating a logical object address to a physical file system path;

checking a file system for validity and authorization for the requesting user including determining whether the first network object is a network object within the network directory service;

verifying a username and a password for the requesting user;

returning a first error message if requesting user is unauthorized to access the first network object;

determining an object type for the first network object;

sending a response to the requesting user;

accessing the network administration functions of the network directory service using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol; and

administering user rights to the first network object using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the network directory service, installed on a user workstation.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the manipulation of the first network object includes changing a set of attributes of the first network object.

3. The method of claim 1 further including verifying that the first network object is found.

4. The method of claim 3 further including returning a second error message if the first network object is not found.

5. The method of claim 1 further including assigning new rights to the first network object.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the new rights for the first network object are for a second network object.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of an interactive computer screen.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the new rights are all rights for all users and assigned by dragging a public icon and dropping the public icon on the first network object.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the new rights are subtracting all rights for all users except an assigned user to the first network object and wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging a private icon and dropping the private icon on the first network object.

10. The method of claim 1 further including modifying a set of attributes of the first network object by modifying a set of fields on a screen of a subset of the set of attributes.

11. The method of claim 10 further including navigating a context menu for a plurality of screens that allow modification of the set of attributes of the first network object.

12. A computer program for manipulating network objects by extending an Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol to a network directory service having network

administration functions, wherein the protocol allows a user to perform remote web content authoring and user rights administration operations, the computer program comprising:

instructions for receiving a request using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol for a manipulation of a first network object from a requesting user, wherein the first network object includes at least one from the group consisting of: devices, resources and container objects;

instructions for verifying a first set of authorization information;

instructions for translating a logical Uniform Resource Locator to a local file system path;

instructions for checking a local file system for validity and authorization for the requesting user including determining whether the first network object is a network object within the network directory service;

instructions for verifying a username and a password for the requesting user;

instructions for returning a first error message if requesting user is unauthorized to access the first network object;

instructions for determining an object type for the first network object;

instructions for sending a response to the requesting user;

instructions for accessing the network administration functions of the network directory service using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol; and

instructions for administering user rights to the first network object using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the network directory service, installed on a user workstation.

13. The computer program of claim 12 further including instructions for verifying that the first network object is found.

14. The computer program of claim 13 further including instructions for returning a second error message if the first network object is not found.

15. The computer program of claim 12 wherein the request is to assign new rights to the first network object.

16. The computer program of claim 15 wherein the new rights for the first network object are for a second network object.

17. The computer program of claim 15 wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of interactive computer screen.

18. The computer program of claim 17 wherein the new rights are all rights for all users and assigned by dragging a public icon and dropping the public icon on the first network object.

19. The computer program of claim 17 wherein the new rights are subtracting all rights for all users except an assigned user to the first network object and wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging a private icon and dropping the private icon on the first network object.

20. The computer program of claim 12 further including instructions for modifying a set of attributes of the first network object by modifying a set of fields on a screen of a subset of the set of attributes.

21. The computer program of claim 20 further including instructions for navigating a context menu for a plurality of screens that allow modification of the set of attributes of the first network object.

22. The computer program of claim 12 wherein the manipulation of the first network object includes instructions for changing a set of attributes of the first network object.

23. A system for manipulating network objects by extending an Internet authoring, collaboration and protocol to a network directory service having network administration

functions, wherein the protocol allows a user to perform remote web content authoring and user rights administration operations, the system comprising:

a web server;

a work station connected to the web server by an Internet connection;

at least one network server connected to the web server;

at least one storage system connected to the web server;

means for receiving a request using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol for a manipulation of a first network object from the work station, wherein the first network object includes at least one from the group consisting of: devices, resources and container objects;

means for verifying a first set of authorization information;

means for translating a logical Uniform Resource Locator to the storage system;

means for checking for validity and authorization for a requesting user including determining whether the first network object is a network object within the network directory service;

means for verifying a username and a password for the requesting user;

means for determining an object type for the first network object;

means for sending a response to the requesting user;

means for accessing the network administration functions of the network directory service using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol; and

means for administering user rights to the first network object using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the network directory service, installed on a user workstation.

24. The system of claim 23 further including means for verifying that the first network object is found.

25. The system of claim 24 further including means for returning a second error message if the first network object is not found.

26. The system of claim 23 wherein the request is to assign new rights to the first network object.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein the new rights for the user are for a second network object.

28. The system of claim 26 wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of interactive computer screen.

29. The system of claim 27 wherein the new rights are all rights for all users and assigned by dragging a public icon and dropping the public icon on the first network object.

30. The system of claim 27 wherein the new rights are subtracting all rights for all users except an assigned user to the first network object and wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging a private icon and dropping the private icon on the first network object.

31. The system of claim 23 further including means for modifying a set of attributes of the first network object by modifying a set of fields on a screen of a subset of the set of attributes.

32. The system of claim 31 further including means for navigating a context menu for a plurality of screens that allow modification of the set of attributes of the first network object.

33. The system of claim 23 wherein the manipulation of the first network object includes means for changing a set of attributes of the first network object.

34. A method for manipulating network objects by extending an Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol to a network directory service having network

administration functions, wherein the protocol allows a user to perform remote web content authoring and user rights administration operations, the method comprising:

receiving a request using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol for a manipulation of a first network object from a requesting user, wherein the first network object includes at least one from the group consisting of: devices, resources and container objects;

verifying a first set of authorization information;

translating a logical object address to a physical file system path;

checking a file system for validity and authorization for the requesting user including determining whether the first network object is a network object within the network directory service;

verifying a username and a password for the requesting user;

returning a first error message if requesting user is unauthorized to access the first network object;

determining an object type for the first network object;

sending a response to the requesting user;

accessing the network administration functions of the network directory service using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol; and

navigating a context menu for a plurality of screens that allow modification of the set of attributes of the first network object;

modifying a set of attributes of the first network object by modifying a set of fields on a screen of a subset of the set of attributes; and

administering user rights to the first network object using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the network directory service, installed on a user workstation.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein the request is to assign new rights to the first network object.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the new rights for the first network object are for a second network object.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging and dropping a second network object on the first network object by the use of interactive computer screen.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein the new rights are all rights for all users and assigned by dragging a public icon and dropping the public icon on the first network object.

39. The method of claim 37 wherein the new rights are subtracting all rights for all users except an assigned user to the first network object and wherein the new rights are assigned by dragging a private icon and dropping the private icon on the first network object

40. A computer network for a plurality of users to access a workplace by using an Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the protocol allows a user to perform remote web content authoring and user rights administration operations, the system comprising:

a plurality of network computer servers within the computer network;

a plurality of network computer workstations within the computer network and connected to at least one of the plurality of network computer servers;

a file system, network directory, and printing subsystem on the computer network and accessible by the plurality of users by the protocol;

a security system that provides an authentication process in order to allow access to the plurality of users to the file system, network directory, and printing subsystem; and

a graphical user interface using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol for viewing the file system, network directory and printing subsystem as the workplace, and providing the plurality of users the ability to manipulate the file system, network directory and printing subsystem and the ability to run a plurality of network applications within the file system and network directory portions of the subsystem

wherein user rights to the file system, network directory, and printing subsystem are administered using the Internet authoring, collaboration and versioning protocol, wherein the administration of the user rights is allowed without requiring client software, related to the administration of the user rights, on a user workstation.

41. The computer network of claim 40 wherein the computer network is a global internet network and the file and directory subsystem is within an intranet network.

42. The computer network of claim 40 wherein the graphical user interface is a web browse.

43 - 45. (Cancelled)